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as that of Dr. Hickson in the 1917 Report of the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Chicago Municipal Court seem quite the fashion today. But in this effort to relate heredity to environment in a vital, integral manner we have a new perspective that promises much greater returns in the practical control of crime.

But it is most unfortunate that in performing this distinctive service Mercier has involved himself in a lot of outworn ideas. The background of his argument is a "faculty" psychology (p. 47), a Spencerian sociology (p. 81), an absolutistic ethics (pp. 57-58), and a deductive logic (Introduction). His description of human and animal behavior is excessively rationalistic (p. 12). His assumption of a distinctive "social instinct" does not accord with the results of laboratory study (pp. 83, 90). His criteria for measuring "turpitude" are almost amusing (pp. 267-73). His definition of crime is so thoroughly subjective as to be incapable of scientific use (p. 71). Throughout the book he deals with the individual as a distinct entity, which he is enabled to relate to other individuals only by inventing the "social instinct" already mentioned.

On the whole the book is a great disappointment. Mercier had a splendid opportunity to resolve the outworn problem of heredity versus environment into a new statement that would more nearly accord with the results of careful study as well as everyday experience. He had an unusual chance to save correctional theory and practise from certain faddists. But the underlying premises and the whole method are such as to discredit what might otherwise have been an important contribution to the literature of criminology. It is to be hoped that someone with more modern scientific training will avail himself of the cue Mercier has offered and give us a good working statement of criminal behavior.

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A Book of Remarkable Criminals. By H. B. IRVING. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1918. Pp. viii+315. \$2.00.

This volume consists of a lengthy introduction which sets forth somewhat vaguely the author's philosophy of crime, followed by the history of ten notable criminals "chosen from among their fellows for their pre-eminence in character or achievement." From the reading of the introduction one gets a rather obscure notion of the author's purpose. First, it appears that the book is intended to prove "that the

comforting theory of the Lombroso school has been exploded." Next it seems intended to convey the idea that Shakespeare's criminals are not exaggerated types, and finally it is offered as a stimulant to art when he says: "The true stories told in this book present the raw material from which works of art have been made and may yet be created."

The history of the "remarkable criminals" is derived from documentary and other reliable sources and is presented with little attempt at explanation. Some, as in the case of Charles Peace, present a career of criminality lasting for many years. Others, as that of Professor Webster, are confined to the description of a single crime. In only a few instances is any psychological analysis attempted and practically no physiological or biological data are furnished.

If the book has any real value for the science of criminology it lies in the historical data supplied for study, but the details are too meager to afford much analysis. Any specific science is built up by the application of the scientific method to a body of concrete material. In the case of the science of criminology the material is the criminal himself. The details of the crime committed are of value only as they throw light upon the nature and character of the criminal, but facts obtained in this way constitute only a small part of the explanation of criminal behavior.

As a piece of literature the book is a success. The style is admirable and it holds the attention of the reader with the fascination of a detective story. Also, it may not be too much to say that it appeals to the taste for excitement and it would be a misfortune if it found its way into the hands of the morbid or psychopathic individual.

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Child Welfare in Alabama. An Inquiry by the National Child Labor Committee under the auspices and with the Cooperation of the University of Alabama. New York: Published by National Child Labor Committee, Inc., 1918. Pp. 349. \$1.00.

This investigation is one of a series of investigations undertaken by the National Child Labor Committee and resembles the previous studies in method, arrangement, and outline. The principal topics covered are Public Health, Education, School Attendance, Child Labor, Juvenile Delinquency, Child-Caring Agencies, Recreation, and Law.